understood that other kinds of signals, e.g., video, data, or other appropriate signals, could be controlled by the same mechanism.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set cancels claims 1-22 and adds new claims 23-55. The new claims are set forth below.

23. (New)   A method for controlling the streaming of voice data among multiple devices in a local area network, the method comprising:

setting at least a first of the devices to one of a plurality of source modes in which the first device(s) provide(s) the voice data to one or more others of the devices;

setting at least a second of the devices to one of a plurality of sink modes in which the second device(s) receive(s) the voice data from the first device(s);

establishing a connection for the voice data from the first device(s) to the second device(s) in accordance with the selected source and sink modes.

24. (New)   The method of claim 23 where the source modes are associated with the devices, and specify both one of the devices as a source to provide the voice data and another of the devices as a sink to receive the voice data.

25. (New)   The method of claim 24 where at least one of the source modes for the one device specifies multiple others of the devices as sinks to receive the voice data.

26. (New)   The method of claim 24 where at least one of the source modes for the one device specifies a further of the devices in addition to the one device as a source for the voice data.

27. (New)   The method of claim 23 where the sink modes are associated with the devices, and specify both one of the devices as a sink to provide the voice data and another of the devices as a source to receive the voice data.

28. (New)   The method of claim 27 where at least one of the sink modes for the one device specifies multiple others of the devices as sources to provide the voice data.

29. (New)   The method of claim 27 where at least one of the sink modes for the one device specifies a further of the devices in addition to the one device as a sink for the voice data.

30. (New)   The method of claim 23 where one of the source modes and a different one of the sink modes are set for the same one of the devices concurrently.

31. (New)   The method of claim 23 further comprising locking the mode of at least one of the first and second devices during the communication.

32. (New)   The method of claim 23 further comprising using a semaphore to prevent multiple devices from simultaneously changing modes.

33. (New)   A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon to perform the method of controlling the streaming of voice data among multiple devices in a local area network, the method comprising:

setting at least a first of the devices to one of a plurality of source modes in which the first device(s) provide(s) the voice data to one or more others of the devices;

setting at least a second of the devices to one of a plurality of sink modes in which the second device(s) receive(s) the voice data from the first device(s);

establishing a connection for the voice data from the first device(s) to the second device(s) in accordance with the selected source and sink modes.

34. (New)   The medium of claim 33 where the source and sink modes are associated with the devices, and specify one or more of the devices as a source to provide the voice data and one or more of the devices as a sink to receive the voice data.

35. (New)   The medium of claim 34 where one of the modes specifies at least three of the devices.

36. (New)   The medium of claim 33 where one of the source modes and a different one of the sink modes are set for the same one of the devices concurrently

37. (New)   The medium of claim 33 where the method further comprises locking the mode of at least one of the first and second devices during the communication.

38. (New)   A data processing system, comprising:

a plurality of devices interconnected as a local area network, at least some of the devices having associated source and/or sink modes to provide and/or receive voice data;

a signal streaming controller to select among both the source and the sink modes to establish a connection among certain of the devices to provide and to receive the voice data, respectively.

39. (New)   The system of claim 38 where the modes specify both one of the devices as a source to provide the voice data and another of the devices as a sink to receive the voice data.

40. (New)   The system of claim 39 where one of the source modes specifies multiple others of the devices as sinks to receive the voice data.

41. (New)   The system of claim 39 where one of the source modes specifies a further of the devices as a further source to provide the voice data.

42. (New)   The system of claim 39 where one of the sink modes specifies multiple others of the devices as sources to provide the voice data.

43. (New)   The system of claim 39 where one of the sink modes specifies a further of the devices as a further sink to receive the voice data.

44. (New)   The system of claim 39 where one of the source modes and a different one of the sink modes are selected for the same one of the devices concurrently.

45. (New)   The system of claim 38 where the controller locks the mode of at least one of the first and second devices during the communication.

46. (New)   The system of claim 38 where the controller use a semaphore to prevent multiple devices from simultaneously changing modes.

47. (New)   The system of claim 38 where the controller is separate from the devices.

48. (New)   The system of claim 38 where the controller is distributed among at least some of the devices.

49. (New)   The system of claim 38 where the devices in the network include one or more of a telephone, a data processor, a gateway.

50. (New)   The system of claim 49 where one of the source modes for the telephone provides the voice data to the gateway.

51. (New)   The system of claim 50 where one of the source modes for the telephone provides the voice data also to the computer.